

SHINING TIME STATION (w.t.)

EPISODE #6  
FAITH, HOPE AND ANXIETY

Working Draft  
By Brian McConnachie

Revised 4/22/88

From characters and series storyline  
created by Britt Allcroft and  
Rick Siggelkow

(FADE IN.)

(THE STATION. IN RUSH MATT AND TANYA. THEY HAVE HATS AND BACKPACKS. THROUGH THE FROSTED GLASS, WE SEE THE TRAIN PULLING IN.)

TANYA

Grandpa, grandpa...

(THEY BOTH RUN TO HIS WORKSHOP DOOR. HE OPENS THE DOOR. THEY EACH GRAB A HAND AND PULL HIM TOWARD THE TRAIN.)

TANYA (cont'd)

Come on, come on, we're going to miss the train.

HARRY

Whoa, hold on. What's this about? Miss what train?

MATT

You said you'd take us fishing today.

TANYA

You promised, you promised.

HARRY  
(remembering)

So I did, didn't I? Are you sure it was today?

TANYA

Yes, yes, come on, we're going to miss the train.

HARRY

Okay...let me get some essential

equipment here... Can't go fishing  
without equipment.

(HE DUCKS INTO HIS OFFICE. THEY RUN TO THE PLATFORM  
EXIT. IN COMES STACY. SHE IS CARRYING PACKAGES AND  
MAIL.)

MATT

Harry is taking us fishing.

TANYA

Come on Grandpa, come on...

(HARRY EMERGES WITH TACKLE BOX AND FISHING ROD AND  
SHUTS THE DOOR BEHIND HIM.)

HARRY

Oops, forgot one thing.

(OPENS THE DOOR, REACHES IN AND HAS THE BIG "GONE  
FISHING" SIGN WHICH HE PROUDLY HANGS ON HIS DOOR.)

MATT

We're going to miss the train.

HARRY

Don't rush me, son. I'm coming,  
I'm coming. There's plenty of  
time.

(HE HUSSLES TOWARDS THE PLATFORM.)

HARRY

Hello there, Stacy. We're off to  
the old fishing hole.

STACY  
(glum)

Hummm...Well, I guess you better  
go ahead. But try not to be too  
long. There's a problem down the

line, and I'll need some help.

(THE KIDS EXIT. HE PAUSES.)

HARRY

That sounds serious. What's the trouble?

V.O.

1111111111 Aboard!!!!!!

STACY

The signal is broken. We've got to fix it for the express train this afternoon or else there will be an accident.

(STACY HOLDS UP A SIGNAL ARM.)

TANYA (V.O.)

Come on, come on.

MATT (V.O.)

The train's pulling out.

HARRY

....Mmmmmmm, I'll be darned. That is serious.

(HARRY TAKES THE SIGNAL FROM HER. THE KIDS REAPPEAR.)

BOTH

COME-ON!!!!

HARRY

Look at that! There's the trouble. The arm that moves the signal has broke clean off.

(THE PROBLEM HAS CAPTURED ALL OF HIS ATTENTION. HE STARTS TO HEAD BACK TO HIS OFFICE. THE KIDS ARE STUNNED. THE TRAIN STARTS TO PULL OUT. HARRY SNAPS OUT OF IT. HE TURNS TO THE KIDS.)

HARRY

Kids, I'm real sorry. But this signal here is serious work. And you know that old saying: work before play.

TANYA

But you already worked. Now it's time to play!

(HARRY NOTES THE LOST/DUMBSTRUCK LOOK ON THE KID'S FACES.)

HARRY

Hay, hay, hay. This isn't going to take that long. Maybe ten, fifteen minutes. We'll catch a train to Twiddly Junction and switch to the express to Lucky Lake. Cheer up, the fish will still be jumping.

(HE EXITS INTO THE WORKSHOP. THE KIDS PLOP DOWN ON A BENCH. THEY'RE NOT BUYING HARRY'S LINE ABOUT CATCHING THE NEXT TRAIN. STACY COMES OVER.)

STACY

Matt? Tanya? I'm going to Harry's workshop to help him fix the signal. I know you wanted to go fishing, but this is important

and sometimes adults have to do  
things that <sup>even</sup> ~~they~~ don't even want  
to do. But it's got to be done.

MATT

I know. But Harry promised.

STACY

Well, if Harry promised them I'm  
sure you'll go fishing. <sup>sometime</sup> Harry  
always keeps his promises.

(BRIGHTENING) Besides, I'm glad  
you didn't run off just yet.

There's a package that came this  
morning. It's addressed to both  
of you.

MATT AND TANYA

A package?

STACY

I left it on the information desk.

(THE KIDS RUN OVER TO THE INFORMATION DESK. MATT TAKES  
THE PACKAGE. THIS IS A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO HIM. MATT  
PLACES IT BETWEEN HIMSELF AND TANYA AND OPENS IT. HE  
REMOVES THE TOP OF THE BOX. THEY LOOK IN. THERE, IN  
R.I.P, REPOSE, IS MR. C. HE SUDDENLY SITS UP.)

MR. C

Hello Tanya, Hello Matt.

TANYA

How did you get in there?

MR. C.

I climbed in here. Then I shipped

myself in a package. I wanted to see how the mails are running. And I'm here to tell you they're running very bumpy. But they're running on time I'm quite pleased to report. But you should never mail yourself in a box if you can avoid it.

(MR. C. TAKES A SECOND LOOK AT THE KIDS AND SEES THEY ARE PRETTY GLUM.)

MR. C. (cont'd)

What are you two so glum about?

MATT

Harry was supposed to take us fishing.

TANYA

And now he's not.

MR. C.

Oh, left behind at the station, were you? That reminds me of a conductor friend of mine.

MATT

What conductor?

MR. C.

The conductor on Clarabel. That's Thomas' coach, you know. Great friends, Thomas and Clarabel. But I was talking about my friend,

the conductor who's a different conductor then I am. Which just goes to show conductors can be friends. But I never told you about this conductor friend did I? Well, I think it's about time I did...

(INTO THOMAS # 11)  
(DISSOLVE BACK. THE STORY DID NOTHING TO CHEER THEM UP. THEY STILL HAVE THE SAME LONG FACES.)

MR. C.

Well, I say if you don't get rid of those long faces, "quicker than ever before", I'm going to climb right back into this box and mail myself to Koola La Gumba.

MATT

Where's that?

MR.C.

I have no idea...But it sounds far away, though...Doesn't it?

TANYA  
(suddenly getting an idea)

Will you take us fishing?

MR. C.

If your grandpa said he'd take you fishing, I'm sure he will... I have a great deal of faith in him.

TANYA

He's always so busy.

(MR. C. JUMPS DOWN TO THE FLOOR.)

MR. C.

He's a hard worker, a good  
railroad man.

(MR. C. WALKS ACROSS THE STATION TOWARDS THE MURAL.  
THE KIDS FOLLOW.)

MR. C. (cont'd)

...never give up Hope.

(MR. C. WALKS TO THE WALL, TURNS VERTICAL AND WALKS UP  
THE SIDE OF THE WALL AND INTO THE SWITCHHOUSE. THE  
KIDS DISPLAY RENEWED AMAZEMENT AT THESE TALENTS.)

MR. C. (cont'd)

As long as there is Hope, I say,  
there's always a reason to be  
cheerful. Chin up, and all that.

Just take a look at these two!

(MR. C.'S MAGIC ANIMATION - COLORS OF HOPE.)  
(DISSOLVE BACK. THIS TIME THE KIDS ARE CHEERFUL.)

MR. C.

That's better!

(MR. C. GIVES A SUDDEN NOD WITH HIS HEAD AND TINY  
UMBRELLAS APPEAR IN MATT'S AND TANYA'S HANDS.)

MR. C. (cont'd)

...Now if you'll both excuse me, I  
have a very important matter to  
attend to myself.

MATT

What?

MR. C.

Lunch.

(WITH A WAVE GOODBYE, HE ENTERS THE SWITCHHOUSE.)

MR. C. (cont'd)

Remember: Never give up hope...

(HARRY'S DOOR OPENS AND OUT COMES HARRY. THE KIDS GO RUNNING OVER.)

BOTH

Are you finished?

Are you finished?

HARRY

What? No. No I'm not quite done.

It's a little more complicated  
than I first thought.

(HARRY GOES OVER TO STACY BEHIND THE TICKET BOOTH.)

HARRY (cont'd)

I'm going to the hardware store.  
I need some special kind of  
screws. You can only get them in  
one place.

(HE GOES TO THE PLATFORM EXIT, PAUSES.)

HARRY  
(to kids)

Now don't you worry kids. I'll be  
back in 15 minutes.

(HE EXITS. THE KIDS GO TO STACY BEHIND THE BOOTH.)

TANYA

When's the next train?

(STACY LOOKS OVER THE SCHEDULE.)

STACY

The next train is in 12 minutes  
and that's the last train for  
...two hours. Except for the  
Fireball Express and that doesn't  
even slow down for our station.

TANYA

I knew it. He's never going to  
take us fishing.

MATT

You can't depend on grownups for  
anything.

TANYA

They're always too busy.

(STACY REGARDS THEIR DILEMMA. THE KIDS BOTH PLOP DOWN  
ON THE WAITING BENCH AGAIN.)

TANYA

He won't get back in time.

MATT

We'll have to sit here all  
afternoon. With nothing to do!

(STACY COMES OVER.)

STACY

Instead of just sitting there with  
your faces down to the floor why  
don't you find something to do?

MATT

Like what?

TANYA

Stacy, can you take us fishing?

STACY

Me?... I'd love to but I can't  
leave the station. I'm the only  
one here. But I'll tell you what  
I will do, we can plan a date...

MATT

But we want to go nnnnnaaaahhow!

TANYA  
(to Matt)

Come on, Stacy's right. Let's  
find something else to do...

(THEY LEAVE STACY AND WALK TO THE ARCADE.)  
(INT. JUKEBOX.)

#1

Here come the kids.

#2

Goodness, they're big. What do  
you think they eat?

#3

Pillows, phonebooks, basketballs,  
stuff like that.

#2

Really?...Naw, get out of here.

#1  
(calling to kids)

...I know what they want to hear...

(EXT. JUKEBOX.)  
(MATT AND TANYA.)

#1

...I just got a new song. See  
what they think.

(INTO SONG. THEME: YOU CAN NEVER DEPEND ON GROWNUPS.  
SURE THEY FEED YOU AND LOOK AFTER YOU BUT THEY NEVER  
DO THE IMPORTANT THINGS. THEY NEVER FEED YOU ENOUGH  
CANDY OR BUY ENOUGH TOYS. INTO A MUSIC VIDEO.)

?

(INT. JUKEBOX.)

#1

What do you think?

(EXT. MATT AND TANYA. THEY EXCHANGE A PUZZLED LOOK.)

TANYA

Ah... I don't think so...

(THEY START TO BACK AWAY.)

TANYA (cont'd)

But thanks for playing it for us.

(to Matt) Grownups can be bad but  
they're not THAT bad.

(CUT TO MR. C. COMING OUT ON HIS PLATFORM, PATTING HIS  
FULL TUMMY. TANYA AND MATT COME OVER.)

TANYA

Mr. Conductor, what time is it?

(HE TAKES OUT HIS BATH-TUB PLUG, LOOKS AT IT, THEN AT  
THE BIG CLOCK.)

line it up with the  
big clock

MR. C.

It's five minutes before the  
hour. Precisely.

TANYA

He's never going to fix it in time.

MATT

And we won't go fishing.

MR. C.

Fishing! Fishing! All I ever  
hear about is fishing! Not  
everybody likes to fish, you  
know. Especially the fish! And  
that goes double for Thomas.

MATT

Thomas is a train engine what's  
that got to do with fishing?

MR. C.

Well, you'd be surprised. And you  
look like you both could use a  
surprise! Did I ever tell you  
about the time Thomas had his eye  
on that particular sport?

MATT

No.

MR. C.

Very well then, I will...

(DISSOLVE INTO: THOMAS #12.)  
(DISSOLVE BACK.)

TANYA

At least Thomas had a chance with  
fish. We're going to be stuck  
here... what time is it now?

(MR. C. CHECKS HIS PLUG.)

MR. C.

It's one minute before the hour.

TANYA

I knew he wouldn't make it.

MATT

And we're never going to go  
fishing.

MR. C.

What happened to all your hope  
from before?

TANYA

What's the good of hoping for  
something when you know it isn't  
going to happen?

MR. C.

You can hope the train is late.

(SFX DISTANT WHISTLE AND TRAIN NOISE GROWING LOUDER.  
THE KIDS GO TO PLATFORM ENTRANCE. THE TRAIN PULLS IN.)  
(CUT TO MR. C. CHECKING HIS PLUG.)

MR. C.  
(to himself)

Nope, it's right on time.

(CUT TO KIDS.)

MATT

Do you see him?

TANYA

No...

(THEY DROP BACK INTO THEIR FUNK AND SLOUCH TOWARDS THE  
SEATS. SLIP OFF THEIR BACKPACKS AND TAKE OFF THEIR

HATS. THEY HAVE FINALLY ACCEPTED DEFEAT. IN COMES STACY WITH A MAILBAG.)

STACY

Any sign of Harry?

(THEY BOTH SHAKE THEIR HEADS.)

STACY (cont'd)

That's too bad.

(SHE STARTS TO SORT THROUGH THE MAIL.)

STACY (cont'd)

You may not go fishing, but it's  
your lucky mail day. Here's a  
letter for you.

(STACY HANDS TANYA AN OVERSIZED ENVELOPE.)

TANYA

It's from my pen pal in \_\_\_\_.

(SHE OPENS IT AND ITS A BIG COLORFUL DRAWING.)

MATT

Wow!

STACY

Isn't that nice? Do you think you  
could do something like that?

TANYA

I don't know.

STACY

Why don't you give it a try.  
There is a paper in one of those  
drawers. You do one too, Matt.

(THE KIDS GO TO GET MATERIALS.)

(THEY OPEN SORRY, WRONG DOOR. TBA. THEY FIND THE BIG PAPER AND THE MAGIC MARKERS.)

MATT

What are you going to draw?

TANYA

Being stuck in the station.

MATT

Me too.

(FREEZE FRAME OF THEIR PICTURES GROWING. THEY BEGIN TO TAKE PLEASURE. THEY NOD APPROVINGLY AT THEIR OWN WORK. AND EACH OTHER'S WORK.)

(CUT TO ENTRANCE/IN BOUNCES SCHEMER PASSING BY THE BOOTH.)

SCHEMER

Good day Miss Jones. I trust all  
your good passengers have been  
having a fine time with my  
wonderful machines?

(SHE SHAKES HER HEAD IN COMIC DISBELIEF AT HIS ATTITUDE. HE GOES TO THE ARCADE WHERE THE KIDS ARE ON THE FLOOR DRAWING.)

SCHEMER (cont'd)

...Here, what's this? Get off the  
floor! You're blocking the way  
for the customers who want to put  
money in my machines.

TANYA

What customers?

SCHEMER

There aren't any customers because  
you're blocking the way... What is

that you're drawing.

(HE LOOKS IN TO EXAMINE THE WORKS.)

SCHEMER (cont'd)

...say, that's not bad. It's  
nothing to shout about, but it's  
not bad.

(HE HAS AN IDEA. HE SLAPS HIS HANDS.)

SCHEMER (cont'd)

Hey, I'll tell you what, write  
"Come to Schemer's Machines"  
across these drawings and I'll pin  
them to your shirts and you both  
go walking up and down the  
platform.

TANYA

I don't think so...

SCHEMER

Hey, don't think I'm going to ask  
advertising  
you to do this for nothing.

There's a reward in it for you.

MATT

What's the reward?

SCHEMER

I'll pat you on the head. A real  
nice pat. One of my best. Maybe  
even chuckle you under the chin.

Hey, I don't do that to

↑ pat you on the back  
shake your hand  
& say congratulations

everybody...

(CUT TO ENTER HARRY.)

HARRY

I'm back. I have the part. It's  
all fixed.

(HE GOES TO THE KIDS.)

TANYA  
(pouty)

Swell.

MATT

Great.

HARRY

Come on. Get your stuff, let's go,

TANYA

You missed the train.

HARRY

Nonsense, I've never missed a  
train in my life.

(HARRY GOES TO HIS WORKSHOP AND GETS HIS FISHING  
GEAR. HE HUSSLES BACK TOWARDS THE EXIT.)

HARRY (cont'd)

...come on you two. Are you  
coming fishing or aren't you?

TANYA

There are no more trains, Grandpa.

(HE STEPS UP IN EXIT PLATFORM.)

HARRY

Is that so? Then what do you call

that?

(POINTING. SFX UERY LOUD DISTANT TRAIN SOUNDS. THE KIDS GO TO THE EXIT.)

MATT

What is it?

(STACY COMES UP.)

STACY

That, children, is the Fireball Express. The only time you ever see it is at 80 miles per hour.

Why's it stopping here?

HARRY

Because it's going to take us fishing, that's why. Now come on kids, get your stuff.

(THEY GRAB THEIR GEAR. THEY RUN ON AHEAD.)

STACY

How did you know it was going to stop here?

(HE HOLDS UP THE REPAIRED PART.)

HARRY

The Fireball Express isn't going 80 miles per hour anywhere without this.

TANYA (V.O.)

Come on Grandpa!

HARRY

I'm coming, I'm coming.

*test  
need to ~~test~~ the  
the signal is fixed  
if we hadn't fixed it  
would be able to stop  
the train for a test  
like this or for other  
emergencies*

(INT. JUKEBOX.)

*Selection F2 Ready*  
#1  
C2... one...two...three...

(THEY BEGIN PLAYING THE WABASH CANNONBALL.)

(EXT. SCHEMER IS STARTLED.)

SCHEMER

Hey...no one put money in there...

stop playing...

(STACY AT THE EXIT WAVING. MR. C. AT THE MURAL

WAVING.)

(CREDITS. FADE.)